

## IN THE CLAIMS

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1. (Currently amended) A signalling apparatus for processing signalling messages, comprising:

links via which the signalling apparatus is connected to other signalling apparatus[[],];  
at least one signalling system that sends signalling messages to the other signal apparatus or, respectively, receives signalling messages from the other signalling apparatus via said links[[],];

said signalling system that respectively allocates a signalling network identity to said links; and

at least one of said links that is returned in a loop from a signalling point to the signalling point as a loop link, different signalling network identities being allocated to the loop link at an output and input side by the signalling system.

2. (Currently amended) A signalling apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said signalling system, with assistance of [[a]] said loop link communicates signalling messages between two other signalling systems contained in the signalling to which is respectively provided an interface.

3. (Previously presented) A signalling apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said signalling system generates internal load for test purposes with assistance of said loop link.

4. (Currently amended) A signalling apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said signalling system realizes an interworking communication with other networks with assistance of [[a]] said loop link.

5. (Previously presented) A signalling apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said signaling system is a signalling system according to No. 7 and allocates a same network identifier to said loop link at the output and input side.

6. (Currently amended) A method for signalling in a signalling [[means]] apparatus, comprising the steps of:

allocating signalling network identities to links of a signalling apparatus by a signalling system;

allocating different signalling network identities at an output side and input side to a link as a loop link that is returned from the signalling apparatus to [[a]] the same signalling [[means]] apparatus in a loop.

7. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 6, further comprising the steps of: employing said loop link by said signalling system to communicate signalling messages between two further signalling systems of the signalling [[means]] apparatus having a respective interface.

8. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 6, further comprising the step of: employing said loop link by said signalling system to generate load for test purposes.

9. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 6, further comprising the steps of employing said loop link by said signalling to enable with other networks.

10. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 6, further comprising the steps of: allocating a common NI to said loop link at an output and input side by said signalling system.

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11. (New) A signaling apparatus for processing signaling messages, comprising: links via which the signaling apparatus is connected to other signaling apparatus; at least one signaling system that either sends signaling messages to the other signal apparatus or receives signaling messages from the other signaling apparatus via said links; wherein said signaling system allocates a signaling network identity to at least one of said links; and

wherein said signaling system allocates different signaling network identities to the loop link at an output side and input side for one of said links when said one of said links is returned in a loop to a signaling point.

12. (New) A signaling apparatus, comprising:  
at least one signaling point;  
a first internal network comprising a first unique network identity and a first ISUP;  
a second internal network comprising a second unique network identity and a second ISUP;  
a first signaling link associated with said first internal network;  
a second signaling link associated with said second internal network;  
at least one routing table configured with at least one of said first unique network identity and said second unique network identity; and  
a loop link interconnecting said first internal network and said second internal network to form at least one of a network tunnel and a signaling tunnel.

13. (New) A method for signaling in a signaling apparatus, comprising the steps of:  
allocating unique point codes to each of a plurality of signaling networks interconnecting a plurality of signaling points; and  
routing a signal from a first network of said plurality of signaling networks to a second network of said plurality of signaling networks using said unique point codes.